Amendment to the Claims:

This listing of claims replaces all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1.   (Previously presented)   A method of recognizing handwriting, comprising:

obtaining a sample of handwriting;

segmenting said sample into separate handwritten words; and

attempting to recognize a whole handwritten word without attempting to recognize any individual letter of the whole handwritten word, by determining higher-profile features which have higher weighted parts during recognition, and low profile features which have lower weighted parts during recognition, and locations of said high-profile features and said low-profile features.

2.   (Canceled)

3.   (Currently amended) A method as in claim [[2]] 1, been said recognizing comprises determining features of the silhouette.

4.   (Canceled)

5.   (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1,

wherein said determining features comprises determining prime

features.

6.   (Previously presented) A method as in claim 5,

further comprising enclosing said prime features to form hybrid

features.

7.   (Original) A method as in claim 6, further comprising

sorting said features by first syllable blends.

8.   (Previously presented) A method as in claim 1, wherein

said attempting comprises categorizing a whole of said

handwritten word according to its overall silhouette.

9.   (Currently amended) A method as in claim 8, A method

of recognizing handwriting, comprising:

        obtaining a sample of handwriting;

        segmenting said sample into separate handwritten words; and

        attempting to recognize a whole handwritten word without

attempting to recognize any individual letter of the whole

handwritten word, by categorizing a whole of said handwritten

word according to its overall silhouette; and

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wherein said categorizing comprises categorizing positions

of features in said handwritten word, and categorizing first

syllable blends of said handwritten word.

10.   (Original) A method as in claim 1, wherein said sample

of handwriting includes family names.

11.   (Original) A method as in claim 10, further comprising

forming a list of a plurality of family names, and forming

silhouette information about said plurality of family names, and

comparing said separate handwritten words to said plurality of

family names.

12.   (Original) A method as in claim 11, wherein said

comparing comprises forming silhouette information, and

comparing said silhouette information into said silhouette

information about said plurality of family names.

13.   (Original) A method as in claim 12, wherein said

silhouette information includes information about the presence

of high and low parts in the written word and the position of

those high and low parts.

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14.   (Original) A method as in claim 12 wherein said
silhouette information includes first syllable blends in the
word.

15.   (Currently amended) A method, comprising:

analyzing a sample of handwriting by analyzing a whole word
of said sample at any one time, said analyzing comprising (1)
forming information indicative of a silhouette of said whole
word, ~~and comparing said information with a database of~~
~~information about other silhouettes~~, wherein said silhouette
information includes prime profiles indicative of specified
features, ~~and concatenated~~ used to form concatenations of said
prime profiles ~~indicative of~~ which concatenation describe
combinations of specified features, (2) analyzing slope
sequences of the handwriting, (3) analyzing N-S profiles of the
handwriting, and (4) analyzing cavities within said handwriting,
and (2) comparing said information with a database of
information about other analysis information.

16.   (Original) A method as in claim 15, wherein said
database of information comprises a database of information
obtained from a list of possible words.

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17.   (Canceled)

18.   (Original) A method as in claim 15, wherein said silhouette information includes information indicative of high parts in the word and low parts in the word, and positions of said high parts and low parts in the word.

19.   (Currently amended) ~~A method as in claim 15.~~ A method comprising:

analyzing a sample of handwriting by analyzing a whole word of said sample at any one time, said analyzing comprising forming information indicative of a silhouette of said whole word, and comparing said information with a database of information about other silhouettes, wherein said silhouette information includes prime profiles indicative of specified features, and concatenated profiles indicative of combinations of specified features; and

wherein said silhouette information includes information about first syllable blends in the word.

20.   (Original) A method as in claim 18, wherein said silhouette information also includes information about first syllable blends in the word.

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21.   (Canceled)

22.   (Previously presented)   A method as in claim 18,
wherein each of a plurality of silhouette information is
provided with a number.

23.   (Previously presented) A method as in claim 18,
wherein each feature is assigned a number.